

Summertime Hoops At The Summit



Jim Thorson, center, instructs players on a shooting drill during Friday morning's Yankton Bucks Basketball Camp at the Summit Center.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Camp Proves Key For Bucks



Brady Hale drives around a defender during Friday morning's Yankton Bucks Basketball Camp at the Summit Center.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

BY JEREMY HOECK

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The period between seasons are rather important for the Yankton High School boys' basketball team.

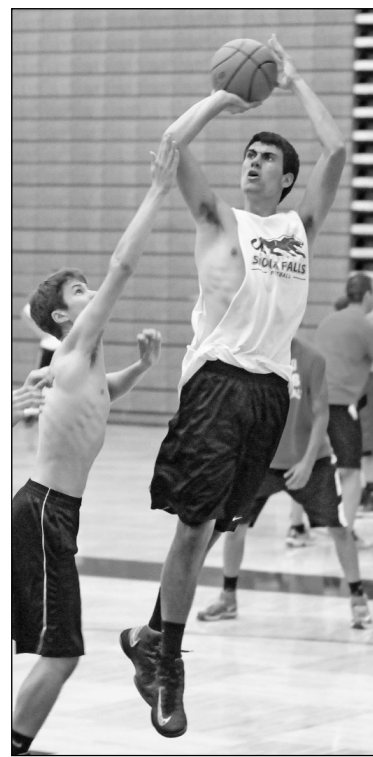
That was the message from head coach Chris Haynes on Friday following the second consecutive day of the Bucks Basketball Camp at the Summit Center.

Sure, there were drills to work on and skills to develop, but the Yankton varsity team was also able to spend additional time together.

In that way, the camps are a kind of "glorified practice," Haynes said.

"That's what we tell our kids anyway," he said, chuckling. Approximately 75 participants — mostly from Yankton — between the morning (grades 9-12) and afternoon (younger ages) sessions took to the Summit Center courts to work on offensive and defensive skills.

The Bucks coaching staff, along with Jim Thorson, spent



Sam Bisgard shoots a fadeaway jumper over a defender during Friday morning's Yankton Bucks Basketball Camp.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

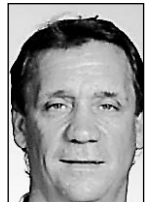
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Flip Saunders Assumes Unique Power In NBA Ranks

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — When Flip Saunders sat down at a press conference Friday, he assumed a position of power within the Minnesota Timberwolves that sets him apart from most everyone else in the NBA.

Saunders is now the team president, the head coach and a part-owner in Minnesota. The status gives him as much influence on his team as any one person in the league, but both he and owner Glen Taylor said they wished it didn't have to come to this.

Kevin Love's uncertain contract situation prevented them from hiring a replacement for Rick Adelman that they believed would do a better job than Saunders, a 16-year coaching



Saunders

veteran who has taken his teams to the conference finals four times and has 638 career wins.

"It was always my preference if we could find another person to take on that leadership role that I'd like to have Flip concentrate as president of basketball operations," Taylor said. "But I think after discussing it, looking at it, the best scenario that we came up with was that Flip should take on that added responsibility."

Doc Rivers with the Los Angeles Clippers, Stan Van Gundy with the Detroit Pistons and, to a certain extent, Gregg Popovich with the San Antonio Spurs are the only others in the league that wear both coach and executive hats. Add to it Saunders' role as a minority owner that was secured when he came back to the organization last year, and he has his fingerprints all over the franchise that employed him as a coach from 1995-2005.

"We went through the process and you look at everything and it came down to there is always a coach at the right place at the right time," Saunders said. "I believe I'm the right guy to coach this team in this situation. It's time to put my tool belt back on and go to work."

During his first tour of duty in Minnesota, Saunders did help GM Kevin McHale with some front office duties in addition to coaching the Timberwolves to the only eight playoff berths in franchise history, and he also handled dual responsibilities in the CBA.

"I understand the commitment that it's taken, and because of the support and help I have, I'm very confident we'll be able to do it at a high level that it needs to be done at," Saunders said.

But this all-encompassing position trumps anything he's done before, so he will lean heavily on a front office that includes GM Milt Newton and long-time executive Rob Babcock to help him. He's also talking to a bevy of assistant coaching candidates, including European coaching star David Blatt and former NBA coach of the year Sam Mitchell, to join his staff.

"He's going to have to

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AD: Facility To Keep Creighton Hoops Nationally Relevant

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Creighton believes the school's new Championship Center will give the Bluejays the infrastructure necessary to remain among the elite in college basketball.

School officials showed off the \$13 million practice facility to the media Friday. Athletic director Bruce Rasmussen said as happy as he is with the new building, it's the recruits whom he hopes to really impress.

"Kids and their parents want to see if you're walking the talk," Rasmussen said. "Everybody wants to be Top 25. They say we want to be an NCAA-caliber program every year. You come into the strength-and-conditioning area, you go into the athletic training area, you go into the academic support area and you see the practice area. "You're saying, 'I think they have made a commitment to where they can say we're trying to keep up and be nationally relevant with a number of sports.'"

The practice gym is named Kyle Korver Courts. Korver, a Creighton alum who plays for the Atlanta Hawks, paid for the floor, which is designed to reduce injuries and is similar to those in NBA facilities.

The locker room features a 94-inch touchscreen TV. Each player will have an iPod hookup that can be used to personalize the music he listens to while he showers.

Next door, players can relax in the Doug McDermott Players Lounge. A donor asked that the lounge be named for McDermott, the 2014 national player of the year who will be drafted this month. The lounge has four 90-inch TVs and three 60-inchers, two custom-made couches and a nutrition station.

The weight room, at 6,000 square feet, is nearly twice the size of the Bluejays' old weight room. The film room includes 30 leather theater seats.

Rasmussen said the Championship Center compares favorably with similar facilities in the Big East. "It would be arrogant to say it's the best," he said. "With what resources we had, we really like what we have for a product."

Baseball: Reds Roll In Tournament Opener

SIoux FALLS — Owen Feser pitched a complete game 2-hitter for the Yankton Reds in a 15-0 victory over Fargo on Friday at the Milt Simmons Tournament in Sioux Falls.

Michael Drotzman had four hits, with three doubles, and five RBI, while Rex Ryken added three hits and four RBI. Peyton Mueller and Mike Frick each had two hits and an RBI. Ethan Wishon and Levi Wiersma both chipped in one hit.

The Reds (4-2) continue action at the tournament today, Saturday, at 10 a.m. against Sioux Falls East and 12:30 p.m. against Mitchell.

Amateurs

Freeman 2, Scotland 0

FREEMAN — Lee Scherschligt pitched a 1-hit shutout with 13 strikeouts to lead the Freeman Black Sox past Scotland 2-0 in South Central League amateur action Friday night. Scherschligt allowed only a sec-

ond-inning single by Joe Kronaizl.

All the offense Freeman needed came on a 2-run single by Christian Wolfgang in the bottom of the fifth inning. The only other hit in the game came from Kyle Weier.

Paul Plante took the loss for Scotland (0-4), with four strikeouts and five walks.

Both teams are in action Sunday night, with Freeman (2-3) at Lesterville and Scotland home against Tabor.

SCOTLAND (0-5)000 000 000 - 0 1 0
FREEMAN (2-3)000 020 00X - 2 2 0

Paul Plante and Levi Geiman; Lee Scherschligt and Derek Wiermann

Wynot 4, Menno 3

WYNOT, Neb. — Chase Rolies and Matt Hames both had two hits to lead Wynot past Menno 4-3 in South Central League action Thursday night.

Lee Heimes had a hit for the Expos (3-2), who scored a run in the bottom of the first inning and never trailed.

Devin Lammers pitched five innings for the win.

Macon Oplinger took the loss for the Mad Frogs (0-5), while Tate Bruckner was 2-4.

WYNOT (0-2)000 001 101 - 3 6 2
Macon Oplinger & Jay Thaler; Devin Lammers, Brett Wiehelschlag (6), Colton Thomas (8) and Ryan Boeckman, Scott Heine (6)

Avon 13, Lesterville 4

AVON — Nick Honke and Dan Bures each drove in three runs to help Avon roll past Lesterville 13-4 in South Central League action Thursday.

Bures tallied three hits on the night, while Honke doubled twice, and Josh Cihak and Brett Kuca both chipped in with a pair of hits.

Zach London pitched into the seventh inning for the Bards (3-2).

For the Broncs (1-4), Cody Ulmer had two hits and two RBI, and Tyler Edler had a pair of hits and one RBI. Alex Wagner took the loss, despite striking out nine batters.

Both teams return to action Sunday night, with Avon in Yankton and Lesterville home against Freeman.

Spurs Ready For James, Any Conditions

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — When the air conditioning went out in San Antonio, many of the Spurs felt right at home — their native homelands.

They are a roster loaded with foreign players, accustomed to playing in places where air conditioning not only isn't optional, it's not even available.

"It gets crazy sometimes," forward Boris Diaw from France said Friday. "It goes to 95, 96."

It wasn't quite that bad inside the AT&T Center during Game 1 of the NBA Finals, where the temperature hovered around 90 degrees and the thermometer got as much attention as the scoreboard in the Spurs' 110-95 victory.

The Spurs weren't immune to the steamy arena, they just handled it better.

They have nine players born outside of the United States, representing an NBA-record seven countries, and even Danny Green, one of their few Americans, played internationally earlier in his career when he couldn't stick in the NBA. And while Diaw said it was the hottest NBA game he could remember, all the Spurs said they had

faced worse.

They probably won't have to endure it again, at least not in this series.

The teams were already scheduled to work out Friday and Saturday at the Spurs' training facility, and Spurs officials announced just before practice began that the air conditioning system was "fully operational."

Commissioner Adam Silver said a breaker about the size of a car battery failed and workers couldn't replace it because they didn't know what effect that would have on the rest of the power to arena. Silver said workers from the facility and league, along with an outside expert, checked it out and are confident everything is repaired and will be fine for Game 2 on Sunday night.

And even if it isn't, the Spurs would probably handle it.

They have developed a mental toughness, the kind it will take to bounce back from last year's gut-wrenching NBA Finals loss to the Heat and get it done this year.

"Being a champion is not easy," Green said. "It's not going to come easy."

So no, the Spurs won't be rattled by something like the conditions. The two-time defending champion Heat will have to do that themselves.

"Anybody can be rattled, but this team is more difficult to rattle than others," Heat forward Chris Bosh said. "They have great poise, they're always a step ahead a little bit."

They were way ahead down the stretch, particularly after the demoralized Heat realized LeBron James — sidelined with cramps — had been lost for good with about 4 minutes remaining. And, as is often the case for the Spurs, this game was won just as much with their minds.

"I feel part of our downfall in that game was mental and physical fatigue down the stretch. You know, rotations and things that we normally do wasn't done last night," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "It wasn't from not having the will or the want to do it."

The Spurs never lose that. Even after their unforgettable Game 6 defeat last season, when they blew a five-point lead in the final half-minute

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Softball: Dakota Valley Picks Up Sweep Of Xtreme

In a girls' softball double-header from Thursday at Riverside Park, Dakota Valley swept the Yankton Xtreme by scores of 8-4 and 11-8.

In game one for Yankton, Emily Oswald was 2-2 with two singles, Alix Peterka tripled and drove in a run, and Lilly Ryken had two RBI.

Madie Cordell drove in one run, and Bailey Peterka and Grace Roy all singled.

Holly Mines pitched a complete game with six strikeouts.

In game two, Cordell was 3-3 with a double, two singles and two RBI, while Alix Peterka singled and drove in three runs. Mines singled and drove in a run, Traia Hubbard had an RBI double, while Oswald, Ryken and Roy all singled.

Lexie McCorkell started in the pitching circle and was relieved by Bailey Peterka.